

WALKER COUNTY

Honorable James C. Brotherton

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Executive Director: Donna Kilgore

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Health Issues
2. Programs and presentations to address at-risk behaviors among youth.
3. Parent Education

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Collaborate with local health clinics to provide information and assistance

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Assist community Foundation with free clinic project
- Provide parent information to health clinics

Increase learning in 12-15yr old group regarding STD's and HIV

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Invite AIDS outreach for presentations in small groups
- Support expansion of awareness programs

Health figure in school

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support expansion of school nurse programs
- Support expansion of nutrition education
- Provide parent information

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Expansion of programs to address at-risk behaviors including prevention of alcohol, drugs and school violence

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Form and support youth council to help in assessment of needs of all children/youth
- Seek resources and funding to expand and enhance existing programs

Expansion of School Resource Officers in the county

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek resources and funding opportunities
- Seek to enhance formalized community partnerships

Mentoring children/youth with law enforcement and public safety figures

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek to enhance formalized community partnerships
- Seek resources and funding opportunities

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Reduce Dropout Rates

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Recruit members from businesses to explore and demonstrate careers
- Support the use of "The Choices" program within the county
- Collaborate with community partners on "Ground Hog Job Shadow Day"

Early identification of students experiencing academic and behavioral difficulties

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support resources to assist in identifying academic and behavioral difficulties
- Collaborative trainings

Life Coping Skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support life skill programs with all children and youth in Walker County
- Seek funding resources to promote and support life skill programs

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Provide private and faith-based daycare training and resource information packets for the public

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Classes by CPC members
- Coordinate with agencies providing trainings

Parenting class for all ages

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Parenting classes offered at collaborating CPC agencies
- Provide information/resources for parents
- Place information at local service agencies

Affordable daycare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with community to help identify assistance with daycare cost
- Provide resource information to parents

Reading Enrichment

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Collaboration with local libraries to assist with reading programs

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek and support funding for expansion of public transportation

Job Training

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support the expansion of career training opportunities for youth
- Collaborate with local businesses on needed skills training
- Provide resource information to youth and parents

After school or summer youth programs for all youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek resources to provide funding for after school programs
- Provide resource information to parents on after school programs
- Collaborate with community partners to expand and enhance existing programs

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Resource information to parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Collaborate with local media outlets
- Encourage parent participation with council projects
- Provide resource information to parents

Community sponsored family oriented activities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Involve community on education awareness programs
- Involve parents to assess needs and available resources within their community

Increase collaboration between private, public and faith-based entities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Collaborate with partners to provide informational seminars
- Formalize collaborative partnerships

Policy Recommendation

1. Updating resource directory and making it client friendly.
2. More funding in all areas for children services. Longer contract periods for agencies.
3. Better communication between local and state agencies
4. Mandatory drug testing laws for adults who enter system through DHR and Juvenile Court.
5. Funding to sustain parenting programs.
6. Funds and resources for public transportation
7. Raise the legal age for a teenager to work
8. Increase funding for educational opportunities for individuals who have limited resources
9. Priority funding for children and families
10. Restrict actions of lobbyists
11. Study of at-risk youth to identify by each county
12. Legislature to consider increased funding for Children's Policy Councils
13. Continue to actively support local CPC's via attendance at local CPC meetings, trainings, and conferences

Accomplishments

1. Worked on memorandums of understanding between agencies
2. Parent Resource Directory Resource Cards
3. Building website
4. Submitted UPS grant

Additional Walker County Children's Policy Council Members:

Bruce LeVan

Charla Gwin

Margaret Guthrie

Amy Sedis

Susan Swartz

Linda Burns

Angie James

Amberly Clark